

Turtle River Provincial Waterway Park



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

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Minister



Horse Falls, Turtle River

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Background Information

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THE PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

This Background Information Document represents the first stage in the park management planning process and includes a summary of resource information which has been collected for the waterway. The in-

formation will provide a basis for the evaluation of the park's resources and will lay the foundation for formulation of the Preliminary and Final Management Plans for the Turtle River Waterway Park.



White Otter Castle

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING STAGE

TIMEFRAME

I. Background Information Document	
II. Draft Policies and Concept Plan Alternatives (Public Consultation)	January-March 1990
III. Preparation of Preliminary Park Management Plan (Public Consultation)	April-May 1990
IV. Preparation of Final Park Management Plan (Public Consultation)	Summer 1990

The Park Management Plan is subject to periodic review during its 20 year timeframe and will be reviewed every ten years as a minimum, or as changes in circumstance require.



INTRODUCTION

Turtle River Provincial Waterway Park is comprised of approximately 160 km. of lakes and rivers, and lies between the towns of Ignace and Mine Centre (Figure 1). It includes 22 sets of rapids and some 30 portages, ranging in length from short liftovers to portages of over 800 metres. The waterway flows through portions of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Administrative Districts of Ignace (approx. 10,700 hectares), Aitkirk (approx. 19,527 hectares), Dryden (approx. 1,200 hectares) and Fort Frances (approx. 8,625 hectares), with a total area of 40,052 hectares.

The Turtle River-White Otter Lake area has long been recognized as a significant natural resource with unique biophysical, recreational, and cultural/historical attributes. The Turtle River constitutes a high quality recreational area and canoe route, situated within the long and scenic Turtle River valley. The southern reaches of the river exhibit large marshes and areas of wild rice, which provide abundant habitat for moose and waterfowl.

The potential for the park to provide economic benefits to the Townships of Ignace and Aitkirk has also been a topic of discussion. The Park Management Plan will provide a co-ordinated approach to the identification of the tourism potential for the waterway and provide a public forum for the discussion of tourism related developments. It will also provide a framework to guide any further

study requirement.

White Otter Lake also constitutes an important entity in the park, and is probably best known as being the home of the legendary White Otter Castle. This feature alone attracts countless tourists to the lake, as do its superb scenery, wilderness camping potential and fine lake trout angling opportunities. Cold, clear waters, beautiful and rugged shoreline (including numerous beaches and rock cliffs), and beautiful mature stands of white pine all contribute to making this lake an outstanding natural resource. Although white pine on the lake was heavily logged in the past, the lake retains much of its wilderness character. So too, the human history of the lake lends an intriguing complement to its natural wonder, and includes Indian pictographs, numerous relics from the logging era, and of course, the folklore of Jimmy McQuat's famed castle.

The use and management of White Otter Castle, a significant historical resource within the park, have generated a need to provide direction for the conservation and wise use of the site including access, operation, restoration and maintenance, and the development of complimentary facilities and programs.

A proposal by the Wabigoon Lake Band to develop and harvest wild rice in the Jones and Eltut Lakes area has also raised concern regarding the potential effects on other park values.

PLANNING HISTORY

The Turtle River Waterway Park was regulated under the Provincial Parks Act (0 Reg 256/89) on May 4, 1989. However, the planning history leading up to the park's establishment spans 50 years.

Following Jimmy McQuat's death in 1918, the site of White Otter Castle and surrounding 95 acres continued to be reserved from disposition, because of the perceived historical value of the castle. In 1939, approx. 3 acres containing the castle site were reserved by the Division of Forest Protection. In 1959, White Otter Lake, including White Otter Castle and a surrounding area of 17 hectares, was declared a reserve under the Wilderness Areas Act in recognition of its significant natural and recreational values. The lake was officially set aside in 1968 by the then Department of Lands and Forests when the White Otter Lake Park Reserve was declared. In the 1970's, the area was also considered for inclusion within the National Park System.

In June 1983, following considerable study and public consultation, the Ministry of Natural Resources produced District Land Use Guidelines (D.L.U.G.) for the province to guide the future use of Crown land. These guidelines also included recommendations for the establishment of new parks. The Turtle River Waterway Park, with an area of approximately 40,052 hectares, was identified as one of 25 new waterway parks recommended for provincial park status. In the Background to

the Land Use Guidelines (released in June, 1983), direction was given regarding permitted uses within Turtle River. Those permitted uses included hunting, trapping, commercial fishing, commercial tourism and mineral exploration.

During August of 1986, the Ministry of Natural Resources prepared an Interim Management Statement for Turtle River Provincial Park, to provide further direction for the park until a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared. The revised Provincial Parks Policy (1988) further defined these uses. The location, nature and extent of the permitted uses in the park will be determined in the Park Management Plan. The Plan will also define the role and significance of the Turtle River Waterway within the provincial park system. It will identify zoning within the park and provide a statement of park policy which will direct the protection, use, development and management of the park's resources.

The Ontario Provincial Parks Policy defines waterway parks as "incorporating outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences". The policy also describes a protection, recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism objective for the provincial park system. Waterway parks contribute to the achievement of all four objectives. A number of recent development proposals and issues have been caused to initiate the park planning process for the Turtle River Waterway. The most pressing issues include permitted uses, and the development of the park's resources.



REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Turtle River Provincial Waterway Park is located in Northwestern Ontario, approximately 240 kilometres west of Thunder Bay. The park is comprised of approximately 160 kilometres of lakes and rivers between the communities of Ignace and Mine Centre (Figure 1). The park is accessible from both Trans-Canada Highways, from Highway 17 to the north and Highway 11 to the south. The mid-section of the waterway is accessible from the Bending Lake Road (Highway 807), which runs between Aitkirk and Ignace. This highway was officially opened in Fall 1989. Access may also be achieved by means of numerous forest access roads that are in close proximity to the park boundary. One of the most well used access points to White Otter Lake is at Ann Bay which is accessible from Aitkirk via the Bending Lake Road.

The Township of Ignace at the northern end of the park has a population of 2,400, while the combined population of Aitkirk and Mine Centre, at the southern end of the park is 4,200. Local populations have recently declined as a result of mine downsizing or closures. Some resident users travel approximately three hours to reach the park from the

city of Thunder Bay (population — 115,000. Non-resident users of the park most frequently originate from the upper mid-western states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa.

The vegetation within the Turtle River Waterway Park is representative of the transitional zone between Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest and the Boreal Forest regions. Boreal species such as white spruce, black spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, trembling aspen and white birch are found interspersed with red and white pine and other species more typical of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest.

The park area consists of a bedrock controlled landscape typical of the Canadian Shield. The area is covered with a thin layer of ice-deposited sandy glacial till, and several landforms such as the Eagle-Finlayson Moraine, associated with this glacial activity.

Situated in the Arctic Watershed, the Turtle River itself and the waterway south of the Balmoral Lake Watershed divide, are located in the Lake of the Woods drainage basin, flowing in a southwesterly direction into Rainy Lake. A small portion of the northern reaches of the park, which includes the Agimik and McNamara Lakes areas, are located in the English River Watershed, and thus flow in a northerly direction.

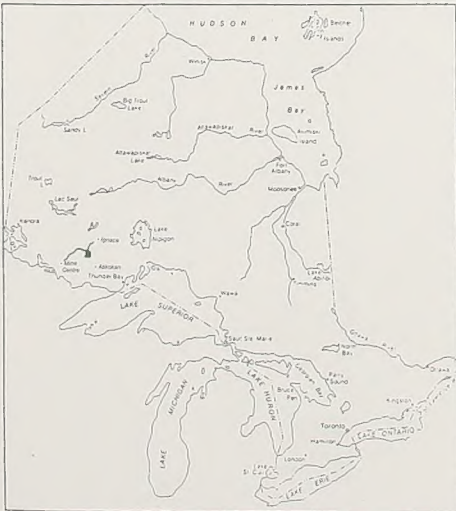


Figure 1: Location of Turtle River Provincial Waterway Park.

LAND TENURE AND EXISTING USE

Current use of Turtle River Waterway Park is, in part, related to land tenure and development which exist within the park boundary. The Ministry of Natural Resources has issued thirteen Land Use Permits: eight for commercial outpost camps, four for private recreation camps (to be cancelled — 1990), and one for the Ontario Hydro transmission line near Balmoral Lake. There are no patented (private) lands.

A number of trappers maintain trapline cabin sites, which provide access to their traplines. Use of these cabins is restricted to fall and winter, when most trapping activity takes place. The park encompasses portions of 13 traplines, of which eight have trapline cabin sites contained within the park. In addition, there are also small portions of 18 Bear Management Areas registered to several tourist outfitters.

White Otter Castle is also located within the park boundary, but there is presently no tenure for the land. Tenure for this site will be determined through a Management Agreement between Friends of White Otter Castle and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

There are nine locations where access can be gained to the waterway, most of which is by way of timber access roads. There is also access to the park at the Clearwater West Portage (water access) and at the bridge where the Bending Lake Road (Highway 807) crosses the Turtle River. In addition, there is water access at each terminus of the park, by way of Agimak Lake from Ignace in the north and via Little Turtle Lake from Mine Centre in the south. Decisions regarding the viability of these various access points will be addressed in this Park Management Planning Process.

The park is located within three Forest Management Agreement (FMA) areas and one Crown Management Unit, but these areas have been excluded from timber harvesting. The sections of the park in Ignace and Dryden Districts are within areas licensed to Canadian Pacific Forest Products Limited under the Wabigoon and English River Forest Management Agreements. The southwestern section of the park, contained within the Manitou-Saine Forest Management Agreement, is licensed to Boise Cascade Canada Limited, while the park area in Atikokan District including White Otter Lake is within the Sapawee Forest Crown Management Unit.

The Turtle River Park area, with two small exceptions, is considered to have low mineral potential. As a result, only limited claim staking has taken place in the park's vicinity. In the past, there has been some geological exploration near McNamara Lake, as well as in the vicinity of the Turtle River west of Pekagoning Lake. Current provincial parks policy does not permit mineral exploration or extraction in provincial parks.

There are wild rice areas on Jones and Elfrut Lakes that are licensed to the Wabigoon Indian Band.

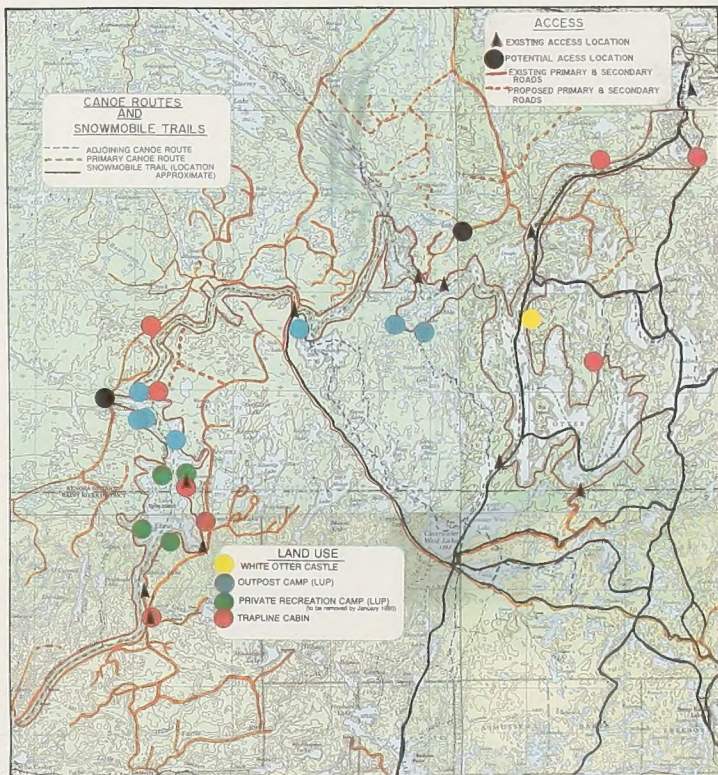


Figure 2: Land Use, Access & Travel Routes

EARTH SCIENCE

Bedrock Geology

The Turtle River Provincial Waterway Park lies in the central portion of the Canadian Shield which forms the foundation of the North American continent and consists of some of the oldest rocks on earth. The Shield is divided into a number of geological provinces and subprovinces based on differences in rock type, structure and age. The Turtle River Waterway lies within the largest of these, the Superior Structural Province, which extends from Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba to Ungava Bay in Northern Quebec. The rocks of the Superior Province were formed between 2.5 and 3.0 billion years ago.

The park covers a cross-section of the Wabigoon Subprovince near its geographic centre. The Wabigoon

Subprovince is characterized by equal proportions of greenstone belts, and granitic batholiths. The greenstone belts were folded, metamorphosed and intruded widely by the granitic rocks during the Kenoran Orogeny, some 2,500 to 2,700 million years ago. The subprovince was subsequently intruded by diabase dikes and sills approximately one million years ago. Since this latter period, the subprovince has been subjected to the processes of weathering, and the regional bedrock topography is largely the result of this prolonged period of erosion.

Much of the bedrock in the park is of granitic, igneous intrusive origin, and metamorphosed equivalents. The pervasive presence of granite is particularly apparent in the White Otter Lake area, although varieties of this rock do occur. The granites in the

park are made up primarily of the minerals: quartz, feldspar, mica and hornblende. Numerous dikes of pegmatite may also be observed cutting the bedrock.

At its northern end, in the vicinity of McNamara and Balmoral Lakes, the park borders on the southern edge of the Raleigh Lake greenstone belt, where rock types are high-grade metamorphosed basaltic volcanic rocks. Also to the north of Smirch Lake, the park crosses the southern end of the Bending Lake greenstone belt. Rock types are again high grade metamorphosed basaltic volcanic rocks, and equally high grade metamorphosed sedimentary rocks, mostly derived from sandstones and siltstones, and some chemically precipitated sediments in the form of magnetite-bearing ironstones.

CLIMATE

The climate influencing the Turtle River Waterway Park is described as "modified continental", which is characterized by long, cold winters and short, warm summers. The weather conditions are changeable, particularly in summer. In winter, cold polar air masses produce dry, clear weather. In the summer, a succession of air masses cross the area, with warm, humid air from the south alternating with cooler and drier air from the north. The northern portion of the

park is within the "Height of Land" climatic region. The mean daily temperature ranges are -25.2 degrees Celsius in January and 11.8 degrees Celsius to 23.6 degrees Celsius in July. The mean annual number of frost-free days is 102. The southern portion of the park is within the Rainy River-Thunder Bay climatic region, where conditions are somewhat more moderate and are thus more conducive to plant growth.



Smirch Lake

Surficial Geology

Although the influence of bedrock is readily seen in the drainage pattern of the park's lakes and rivers, it is the surficial material, or in some places the lack of it, which gives the area's landscape its particular appearance.

The soils, glacial features and drainage patterns which exist today in the park area are primarily the result of the erosional and depositional processes of the last glacial period, the Late Wisconsin. There have been four major glacial periods over the last million years. During the Late Wisconsin, which commenced about 23,000 years ago, ice affecting the park area advanced from two main centres of glacial activity, the Keweenaw sector west of Hudson Bay and the Labradorian sector in northern Quebec. While the ice sheet retreated and re-advanced a number of times, only those erosional and depositional features produced by the last ice movement (approximately 11,000 years ago) remain visible within the park area.

The dominant features of the park landscape evolved not only from the process associated with the constantly changing ice-front of the glaciers, but also from the rise and fall in levels of glacial Lake Agassiz which formed from meltwater in front of the huge ice sheets. Lake Agassiz was the largest body of freshwater on the continent, extending eastward from the Red River Valley. These features include ice-deposited moranic material, wave-washed bare bedrock, lacustrine sands, silts and sands, as well as glacio-fluvial and eolian deposits. More recently formed organic deposits have developed in low lying poorly drained depressions. (Fig. 4)

Perhaps the most significant glacial feature exhibited in the park area

are those landforms and materials related to the retreat of glacial ice. Most important in this respect is the Eagle-Finlayson Moraine trending in a northeasterly direction, which the Turtle River bisects in the middle portion of the park. This feature was formed between 11,500 and 11,000 years ago, when the ice was retreating north for the last time, and subsequently halted here before continuing its retreat. The Eagle-Finlayson Moraine is a linear feature that dominates the landscape, at times rising as much as 20 metres above the surrounding landscape. Glacial features associated with the moraine include delta surfaces and wave-cut terraces which document changes in water levels and drainage patterns of glacial meltwaters. The disintegrating edge of the ice front stood in the waters of glacial Lake Agassiz, and the steep-sided, single ridge nature of this moraine reflects its deposition

into the waters of this vast lake.

Present-day lacustrine deposits are associated with most of the larger lakes and are particularly apparent on the White Otter Lake as sand beaches, a few sand spits, two tombolos and one small baymouth bar. The sand beaches have their best development along the shoreline of Ann Bay and in the vicinity of White Otter Castle. A few kilometres downstream of the Bending Lake Road bridge is a fluvial floodplain feature. This feature exhibits alternative patterns of meandering ridges and intervening wetlands, while in the lowlands, there is a system of thick-covered levees.

Perhaps the most significant feature of more recent origin is the meander loop cut-off, lying approximately 12 km. upstream of Jones Lake, which is in the process of separating to form an oxbow lake.



White Otter Lake

Topography

The Turtle River Waterway Park exhibits a bedrock-controlled landscape which exerts considerable influence on drainage patterns, lake shapes and certain vegetative patterns. The White Otter Lake area encompasses a granitic, moderately rolling area of the Precambrian Shield, thinly covered with a veneer of ice-deposited, bouldery, glacial till. Numerous outcrops interrupt this thin, sandy mantle of soil, while these bedrock knolls are frequently interspersed with swampy lowlands. Because the park boundary essentially follows a narrow river valley, there tends to be little variation in the park's terrain.

The topography in the northern portion of the waterway is more rugged than the southern portion, consisting mostly of narrow river channels, numerous and sometimes steep portages, and a number of small linear lakes. The shoreline of White Otter Lake is mainly comprised of beaches (consisting of boulders, cobble and gravel), backshore lagoons, sand ridges and bluffs, and a few impressive rock cliffs.

There is an extensive wetland area on the northwest end of Ann Bay. As a result of dam construction begun in 1912, the water level of White Otter Lake was raised by almost six feet. Although the dams are now dilapidated and lake levels have returned to near-natural levels, the flooding has had a profound effect on the lake's shoreline. In many places, these areas remained flooded after the water levels returned to normal and became swamps. Most of these wetland areas have subsequently become landlocked by the formation of sand ridges and beaches, creating backshore lagoons. A high water mark may still be seen on bare rock surfaces along the shoreline.

Soils

The park area is generally covered with a layer of ice-deposited bedrock-derived glacial till over the bedrock surface that is usually less than a metre thick. This glacial till tends to be low in nutrient, and its shallow nature also does not promote lush vegetative growth.

The extent of the soil cover in the park region is variable, with some areas exhibiting large expanses of bare bedrock with only minor pockets of soil, particularly on uplands washed by the waters of glacial Lake Agassiz. In places, boulders of varying sizes are all that remain due to the washing away of the finer soil. The boulders appear to be of local origin, since they are mainly comprised of granite.

Organic deposits of peat and muck are characterized by swamps and bog, and occupy low lying poorly-drained areas of the park. These organic soils are very acidic and are therefore low in plant nutrient, thus producing sparse and scrubby vegetation in these areas. The present landscape of the park area has been formed by a mosaic of these landforms and their associated vegetation types.



White Otter Lake

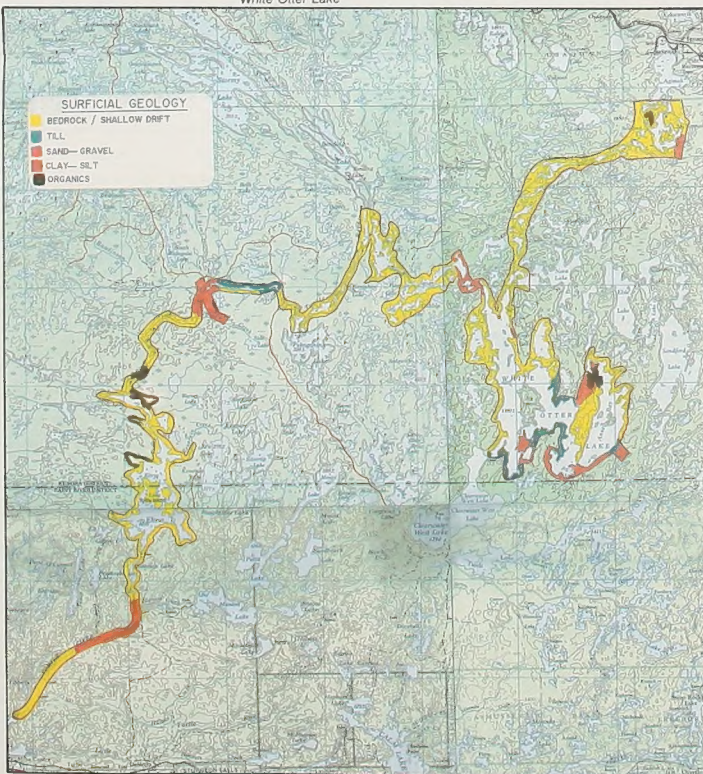


Figure 3: Surficial Geology

LIFE SCIENCE

VEGETATION

The Turtle River Waterway Park is located in the transitional zones between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region to the south and the Boreal Forest Region to the north. The park is located in the Quico Forest Section, which stretches from Thunder Bay on Lake Superior in the east to the southeastern corner of Manitoba in the west. The Turtle River Waterway Park, due to its linear nature, cuts an extensive swath over portions of two Site Regions (4S and 4W, Hills, 1959) and provides representational elements of distinctive floral affinities, namely Boreal, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, Deciduous and Prairie Transitional.

The forests of the Turtle River Waterway Park therefore exhibit a considerable range of tree species. The occurrence of boreal species is typified by jack pine, black spruce, balsam fir, trembling aspen and white birch. Red and white pine are the most apparent representatives of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region. Both species have their highest concentrations in the White Otter Lake area. Other Great Lakes-St. Lawrence species which occur here include large tooth aspen, black ash, white cedar and red maple. Minor representation of southern and prairie transitional forests is provided at the southern end of the waterway. These forest zones are represented by species such as birch, oak, green ash, and silver maple which are found on alluvial sites in the northern reaches of the river.

Although the vegetative cover of the Turtle River Waterway has the appearance of being relatively pristine, extensive logging of red and white pine has historically occurred over a long period. Evidence of cutting is readily apparent on Smirch and Dibble Lakes and in the southern reaches of the waterway downstream of Eltrut Lake.

Natural disturbances have also played a major role in shaping the vegetative pattern of the park. These include fire, blowdown and beaver activity. Of these, fire has been the most significant element of the park's ecology, as it has throughout most of Northwestern Ontario. Some boreal species such as jack pine depend on frequent fires for its widespread occurrence. Large areas of even-aged stands and the dominance of intolerant tree species such as jack pine are evidence of past forest fire activity. Almost pure white birch stands have regenerated on some sites, due to previous forest fires in the park area. Very recent burns have also encroached into the park in

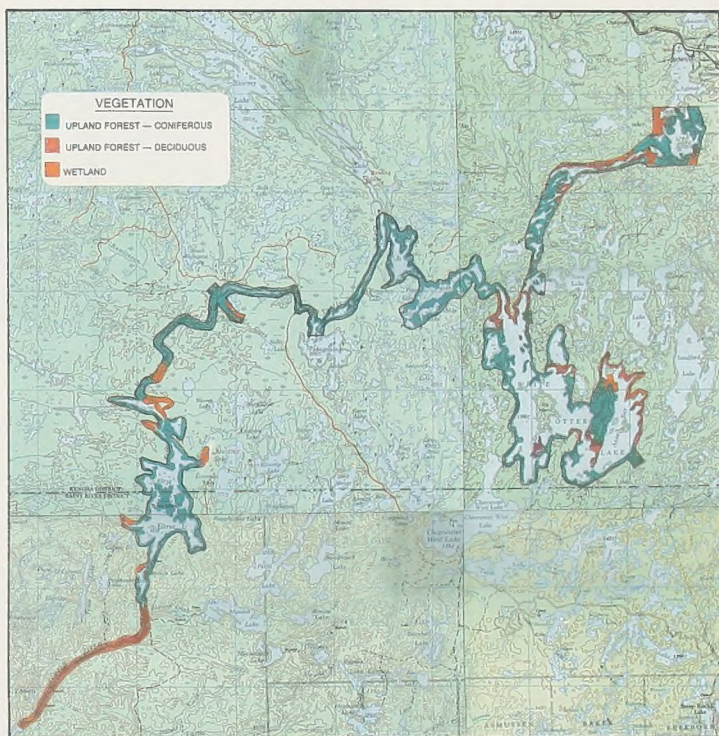


Figure 4: Vegetation

a few locations, particularly the Eltrut and Robinson Lake areas.

There are seven major vegetative communities in the park as follows:

Upland Deciduous Forest

The upland deciduous forest community is comprised of white birch and trembling aspen, although aspen is more abundant than birch. Both species are intolerant and therefore originate most commonly after fire, resulting in even-aged stands. White birch is most common as almost pure stands in the White Otter Lake area, where fires in the early part of the

century were conducive to its growth. Like aspen, birch occurs in mixtures with conifer on high ground on deep bouldery soils. It most often occurs in mixtures with jack pine and poplar, but also occasionally is found in black spruce stands. Trembling aspen is most common in those portions of the park north of White Otter Lake and to the south of Eltrut Lake. Common shrubs include mountain maple, hazel, bush honeysuckle, wild sarsaparilla, and occasionally red maple. Herbaceous plants include bunchberry, Clintonia and large-leaf aster, while club mosses have a more sporadic occurrence here.

Upland Coniferous Forest

Black spruce is one of the most common species in the park area, and can be found on a variety of sites. Jack pine is often associated with black spruce, and on many sites may be the dominant species. Because of its fire origin, jack pine is usually found in even-aged and often pure stands, primarily on well-drained sites. The understorey here tends to be sparse, usually consisting of feather mosses, lichens and blueberries.

A small portion of the upland coniferous forest community is comprised of scattered locations of white and red pine. White pine is conspicuous, because of its prominence in lowering above the forest canopy. This species is found throughout the park area, but very seldom in pure stands. The highest concentration of white pine is found on bedrock knolls in the vicinity of Patricia, Nora and White Otter Lakes. The most extensive occurrence is located on the west side of Ann Bay where white pine of up to 30 metres high dominate large mixed stands.

Red pine has a very localized occurrence in the park area, and is



Clintonia borealis (Blue Bead Lily)

usually restricted to shoreline locations, from White Otter Lake to the southern boundary of the park. Its site conditions are similar to that of white pine, and it is usually found on rock and sand ridges abutting the shorelines of the larger lakes (particularly White Otter and Robinson Lakes).

Upland Mixed Forest

This is the most common forest community within the park and consists of a combination of deciduous and coniferous species, most commonly jack pine, white birch, trembling aspen, black spruce and balsam fir. Mixed forest stands exhibit varying combinations of some of these species, but due to differing site condition requirements and successional stages, they seldom all occur in the same location. These stands may also include a small component of white pine, red pine and white spruce. The understorey is comprised of various deciduous and herbaceous plants associated with those tree species present.



Turtle River north of Jones Lake



Wild rice, Eltrut Lake

Lowland (Wetland) Forest

Black spruce swamps are found throughout the park, occupying wet depressions or as a transitional community between open peatlands and adjacent uplands. Cedar and larch also have a scattered occurrence on these sites. Ground cover here includes sphagnum, Labrador tea, alder, cranberry and sweet gale.

Black ash, silver maple, burr oak, red oak, red maple and shrubby elm are sometimes found on the rich, damp soils along the lake and river shorelines of the Turtle River Waterway.

Wetlands

Swamps are abundant in the park and are most often found along streambanks, near peatlands and where there is beaver activity. These swamps are often vegetated with thickets comprised of alder, willow, dwarf birch and sweet gale.

Open bogs are found only occasionally in the park and are generally found in small kettle basins, which serve as frost pockets. Low shrub bogs and fens are fairly common and often occur as wetland lagoons, backing sand beaches, particularly on White Otter Lake. These wetland

lagoons were formed as a result of dams being built on the lake during the logging era, when increased water levels caused the flooding of backshore depressions. Such areas exhibit leatherleaf, sweet gale, and dwarf birch. Muskrat, or treed bog is characterized by stunted black spruce and is found in a number of small locations in the park.

Meadow marshes are common on the waterway and typically occur on floodplains and in the vicinity of beaverponds. Grasses and sedges form the dominant vegetation, usually occurring as "beaver meadows". Shallow and deep marshes are most abundant in the southern section of the park, particularly south of the Eagle-Finlayson Moraine. Deep marshes are characterized by bullrushes, reeds and grasses, while shallow marshes have tall emergent species and sedges, and often lie inshore from the deep marsh. In the southern reaches of the river, there is an almost continuous presence of narrow fringe marsh vegetation, which includes arrowhead and water horseail.

Wild rice becomes increasingly abundant near Jones Lake and continues to occur southward to the terminus of the park.

rients, however, ferns, blueberry, lichens and a few small wildflower species often eke out an existence here. Where soil has built up in crevices, ledges or shallow depressions, a few twisted, stunted cedars and pine may be found growing on the rocky terrain.

Beaches

The best examples of sand beaches and beach ridges are found on White Otter Lake, particularly on Ann Bay. These are often up to 30 feet in width, forming a broad band along the shore. Behind the beach ridges are former lagoons which are now wet, boggy areas. Elsewhere in the park, Dibble Lake also has a few beaches, but on the Turtle River itself, beaches are sparse.



Painted Turtle



Osprey

FAUNA

The fauna found in the Turtle River area are characteristic of the transitional forest region in which the park is located. Wildlife species are those more typical of the boreal forest of the Canadian Shield, with a few species representative of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest occurring as well. Mammals found here include moose, white tailed deer, black bear, wolf, muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, martens, fisher, coyote, fox, lynx, eastern chipmunk and red squirrel.

Moose population densities in the park are considered moderate in the

northern half of the park, and high in the southern portion. This reflects the occurrence of better moose habitat in the more southerly sector of the river, which includes the occurrence of more wetland areas and an abundance of young successional vegetation, resulting from logging activity.

There are approximately 125 bird species found in the park area. Of these, only the bald eagle is considered endangered, and several sightings have been made of these species in the park. Osprey are also occasionally seen. There is a common tern colony on White Otter Lake.



Rock Barrens

Rock barrens are common in the central portions of the park, which primarily reflects the wave-washing by the waters of glacial Lake Agassiz. They are very extensive in the vicinity of the southern end of the park beyond the present boundary. Rock barrens are characterized by patches of bedrock or boulders and are generally devoid of vegetation, except for a few scattered trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and lichens. Rock barrens can also occur as cliff faces and accompanying talus slopes, but most commonly are exhibited as rolling bedrock terrain, in a patchwork pattern associated with open stands of jack pine or black spruce. Few vegetative species can survive on these rocky sites, due to extreme dryness and lack of nut-



FISHERIES

Watersheds and Drainage

Located in the Arctic Watershed, the Turtle River Waterway Park begins in the north near Ignace on Agimik Lake. Agimik Lake and, to its south, McNamara Lake are not connected to the drainage basin of the Turtle River, but flow north into the English River System. From the drainage divide to Little Turtle Lake constitutes a vertical drop of about 110 metres over a distance of approximately 160 kilometres.

The Turtle River Watershed portion of the park begins south of the drainage divide between McNamara and Balmoral Lakes. Drainage waters from here flow south through a number of short waterways, to join the Turtle River channel at the north end of White Otter Lake and the east end of Dibble Lake. The main channel of the Turtle River actually enters White Otter Lake from the east, at the north end of Ann Bay. From here, the river flows generally in a south-westerly direction to the southern terminus of the park at Little Turtle Lake, where it eventually empties into the Rainy Lake-Rainy River system. Both the Rainy River and English River drainage systems, which receive waters from Turtle River Waterway Park, are part of the Nelson Watershed in the Hudson Bay drainage basin.

Lake Productivity

The ability of a lake to produce fish and other aquatic organisms is related to the available nutrients and water depth. (Fig. 5), nutrients normally enter lakes by leaching from soils. Aquatic productivity is closely related to the type and amount of ice-deposited overburden.

The clear, cold waters of White Otter Lake are classified as oligotrophic and contribute to the lake's designation as a prime lake trout lake. This oligotrophic status is also reflected in the relative scarcity of aquatic plants in the lake, except at the mouth of streams, and rivers where nutrients are continually being concentrated. Disposition of sediment which settles in the slowing current also provides

soil for rooted macrophytes. An example of this is at the mouth of the Turtle River at the north end of Ann Bay. Due to glacial activity, large amounts of exposed bedrock and thin soils are most evident in the White Otter Lake portion of the park. This, along with its depth, is likely the most significant contributing factor to the clear, oligotrophic state of White Otter Lake.

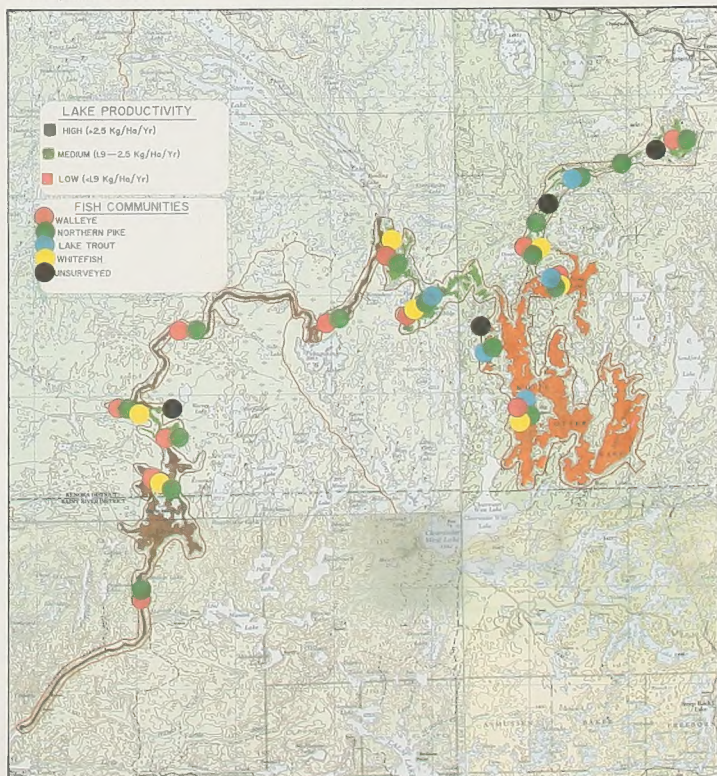
Photo courtesy of Outdoor Encounter T.V. series



Further downstream on the Turtle River, the amount of fill over the bedrock becomes deeper. Here, the river and smaller inland lakes tend to be dark and mesotrophic, with Jones and Eltut being productive warmwater lakes. Marshes are common in the most southern reaches of the park, many of which contain wild rice.

Fish Communities

The most common sport fish species within the waterway park are walleye, northern pike, lake trout and lake whitefish, with lake trout occurring in White Otter, Balmoral, Nora, Emery, Pekagoning, Houston, Little Long and Dibble and possibly Smirch Lakes (Figure 5). Smallmouth bass are becoming more common in the Turtle River basin.



Fish Harvest

There are no commercial fish licences issued for any waters in the Turtle River Provincial Waterway Park. Since the White Otter Wilderness Reserve was set aside in 1959, no commercial fishing has been permitted to occur here. However, commercial baitfishing still continues within the park and there are 19 bait fishing blocks licensed to 12 operators. The decision of whether or not to allow commercial bait fishing to continue will be determined during this Park Management Planning Process.

The majority of bait fish are harvested from small lakes using float planes during the open water season. Bait fishing on the lakes and rivers within the Turtle River Waterway itself is likely minimal.

There are insufficient data regarding sport fishing to accurately assess the present harvest levels. It is known that angling pressure has increased within the last ten years due to the development of new roads creating easy access. Present use includes the guests of commercial tourist outpost camps, guests utilizing commercial tourist boat caches, and resident and non-resident campers. Angling activity is the highest in the spring and early summer, but anglers also exert fishing pressure on the waterway during the winter months. Nora, Patricia and White Otter Lakes appear to receive increasing winter pressure from local residents.

While further study is required, it is expected that the majority of anglers are non-residents, as is the case in most of Northwestern Ontario. The sections of the waterway that attract the heaviest use by anglers are those which have relatively easy access and good quality angling. Areas of heavy use include White Otter Lake, Nora Lake, Dibble Lake, Smirch Lake, Pekagoning Lake, Eltut Lake and Jones Lake. Due to the small size of most of the lakes in the park, they can easily be overharvested, especially small coldwater lakes (eg. Little Long, Balmoral Lakes).

Figure 5: Lake Productivity and Fish Communities



Turtle pictograph on the Turtle River, downstream of Bending Lake



Dilapidated dam from logging era, Smirch at Dibble Lake

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural heritage resources of the Turtle River Waterway Park were inventoried in the fall of 1988 and the summer of 1989. It was determined that there are at least 49 heritage sites, of which 31 are prehistoric occupation sites and 24 are pictograph sites (28 of these sites are on White Otter Lake, with an additional 5 on Agimak Lake and 2 on Pekagonging Lake, lying outside the park boundary (Smyk, 1989). There are also three significant historical sites on White Otter Lake which are sites of log buildings from earlier this century. These include the legendary White Otter Castle, an old lumber camp site (and alleged prisoner-of-war camp), and the site of a provincial forestry ranger station. In addition, the sites of two smaller logging camps are found on the lake, as well as numerous locations with old log structures, dams, old machinery and other relics from the logging era. (Fig. 6)

Of particular archeological significance are the several pictograph sites, some of which are still used by native people today (as evidenced by gifts of tobacco found at some of these sites). One rock painting depicts a stylized turtle, but it is not known if the river was named for this pictograph or due to the prevalence of turtles in the area (Dewdney, 1967). According to traditional belief, the natives viewed the turtle as the messenger between themselves and the spiritual world. (It is interesting to note that the name of Elitrit Lake in the park is the word 'turtle' spelled backwards).

Many of the prehistoric occupation sites in the park are located on existing campsites. A number of these sites, particularly in the White Otter Lake area, are currently used intensively by recreationists, and thus exhibit considerable erosion and signs of over-use. The continuing disturbance and compaction of these sites are threatening their archeological integrity.

The discovery of pictographs, lithic flakes and shards of Laurel and Blackduck pottery on several sites throughout the Turtle River attests to the waterway's importance as a significant prehistoric travel route. Additional and more intensive archeological research and documentation of both White Otter Lake and the Turtle River system should be undertaken to provide further data regarding the prehistoric and historic occupation of this area. This should be done before further disturbance of existing campsites becomes severe. The Ministry of Culture and Communications issued a grant to investigate further archeological sites on the White Otter, Pekagonging, Smirch and Dibble Lakes during the summer of 1989 which resulted in the discovery of nineteen more pictographs and sixteen habitation sites.



Figure 6: Archeological Sites

The Prehistoric Period

The first human inhabitants to occupy Northwestern Ontario were the Palaeo Indian people who hunted big game on the land behind the retreating ice sheet, some 9,000 years ago. Later, the boreal forest became established, resulting in a cultural adaption to the closed forest environment, confining people more to the lake and river systems. Several types of early spear points indicate that different groups of these early hunters lived in this area at various times, as well as in the environs of Rainy River, Lake of the Woods and the Sibley Peninsula.

The archaic peoples replaced or evolved from their Palaeo Indian predecessors about 5,000 years ago and continued the tradition of big



Smirch Lake pictograph

game hunting. A change in climate at this time to warmer, drier conditions effected a change in the plant and animal communities, resulting in a shift in the subsistence patterns of the inhabitants. These changes were characterized by larger spear points changing to smaller side-notched projectile points, and stone knives becoming generally smaller, which were a response to the hunting of smaller game. There is evidence that their subsistence was more diverse, and it is thought that they were fishermen as well as hunters and gatherers.

About 3,000 B.C., there was initial use of native copper which was cold-hammered to manufacture ornamental items and tools, including spear points, knives and gaff hooks. The development of a more elaborate fishing technology included fish hooks, spears and nets.

Although no evidence of archaic occupation was found within the park during initial field study, archaic sites are present throughout the region. It is quite possible that further archaeological research will provide evidence of archaic occupation within the park area.

About 2,000 years ago, a combination of changing climate and improved subsistence resources brought about another cultural change in Northwestern Ontario known as the Initial Woodland Period. While the Laurel peoples continued to hunt big game, they also utilized other natural resources such as fish and wild rice. Most notably, this tradition is marked by the manufacture and use of ceramic pottery vessels. These conical jars used for cooking pots and storage vessels

were made by the coil method and had a smooth surface, except the neck and rim which were distinctly decorated with toothed or sinuously-edged tools. The way of life of the Laurel people was similar to the archaic people, with a marked emphasis on fishing and the introduction of pottery.

Again, while no evidence of Laurel culture was found in the park during field study, it is quite likely that further study would provide evidence of this prehistoric culture.

About 1,000 years ago, another cultural change was characterized by the replacement of the Laurel pottery by the Blackduck and Selkirk pottery style. This marked the beginning of the Terminal Woodland Period (ca. 900 A.D. - 1600 A.D.), which lasted until the time of contact with the Europeans. The people were also hunters, fishermen and gatherers and utilized quite a different shape of pottery than the Laurel culture. The Blackduck culture is characterized by globular pottery vessels, textured by a cord-wrapped paddle, with the rim decorated by cord-wrapped impressions. By comparison, the Selkirk tradition had fabric-impressed globular vessels. Archeologists believe that the Blackduck culture was ancestral to the modern Ojibway, while the Selkirk were predecessors to the Cree peoples.

Evidence of both Blackduck and Selkirk occupation was found in the park, notably on White Otter and Nora Lakes. There was also a triangular chert projectile point found on Balmoral Lake. It is believed that the pictograph sites in the park area also relate to this Terminal Woodland period, being painted sometime between 700 A.D. and 1600 A.D.



Gater boat from logging era, Eltrot Lake

WHITE OTTER CASTLE



The "castle" on White Otter Lake is a focal point of historic provincial significance in this portion of the park. The hardworking McQuat single-handedly completed this impressive log structure in 1914, at the age of 59. The castle is constructed of huge red pine logs, some 30 to 40 metres in length and 50 cm. in diameter, and weighing up to a tonne each. The massive four-storey tower is perhaps reminiscent of the stone towers found overseas in Scotland. The building has 26 windows, all of which McQuat reportedly carried over the 15 or so portages from Ignace.

Born in Quebec in 1855 of Scottish parents, Jimmy McQuat moved to a homestead on the Rainy River in 1887. In 1903, he settled on White Otter Lake where he alternately worked as a trapper, commercial fisherman, and a watchman in seasonally-deserted lumber camps. He also raised loxes for fur, had a vegetable garden and netted enough fish to last him through the winter.

The castle had been completed for only four years, when in October 1918, he tragically drowned while netting fish in front of the castle, at the age of 63. Jimmy McQuat is buried beside his beloved castle, and what is believed to be his grave is still evident today. The site has been designated an official cemetery under provincial law. The castle has been designated a Provincial Heritage Site.

Although now 75 years old and showing serious signs of deterioration, the legendary castle remains a widely-known landmark and still continues to attract a large number of tourists. Visitation to the castle continues year-round, with access gained by aircraft, boat and snowmobile. Options for restoration and maintenance of the White Otter Castle site through a management agreement between the Friends of White Otter Castle and the Ministry of Natural Resources are currently being studied. (Refer to last page for more information on this project.)



The Historic Period

Recorded history of this area began in the seventeenth century, with the arrival of the Europeans. French followed by English traders brought European trade goods, such as glass beads, metal knives, axes and pots, which began to change the aboriginal technology of the area. More significantly, firearms became prized replacements for bows and arrows.

The influence of Europeans began to be felt in the park area, as a result of the expansion of the Hudson Bay Company inland from Hudson Bay to meet the competition (initially, this was Montreal "peddlers" and subsequently traders from the Northwest Company). It is likely that the Turtle River waterway, like most important interior canoe routes, was actively utilized for the collection and transportation of furs to some of the many trading posts in Northwestern Ontario.

In the Turtle River area, logging began around the turn of the century and many relics of logging day history are still evident here. On the south shore of Eltrot Lake is an old steam amphibious "gator" boat, and further downstream below Robinson Lake, there are the remains of an old bridge and log decking along the river banks.

Cutting commenced on White Otter Lake in 1912 and there are many remnants of this era, including old dams and the resultant markings of

high water levels on shorelines throughout the lake. At this time, there was a short-lived attempt to drive logs from White Otter Lake down the Big Turtle River to the Shevlin-Clarke lumber mill in Fort Frances. Instead, a dam and jack ladder were built between White Otter Lake and Clearwater West Lakes and a short railway provided access to the Little Turtle River which proved more suitable for driving logs. Driving logs down the winding Big Turtle River proved unsuccessful due to the time involved; the logs were becoming rotten during the three years that they were in the river enroute to the mill. (This three year drive became known as the "Lost Drive").

Sites on the lake relating to its logging history, include old lumber camps, remains of log buildings, stone foundations, various pieces of rusting machinery, oil drums and log flumes (for transporting logs around rapids).

Sites of historical interest found on White Otter Lake include White Otter Castle, an old lumber camp with remnants of eight buildings (allegedly once a prisoner-of-war camp), and the remains of a Department of Lands and Forest "ranger" cabin. These three sites are situated in close proximity on the east side of McQuat Bay. There are also sites of two large lumber camps on White Otter Lake, one on Big Island and the other in Sucker Bay.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The Turtle River Waterway Park provides approximately 160 km. of canoe route, stretching from just south of the Township of Ignace to near the town of Mine Centre on Little Turtle Lake. The waterway provides the canoeist with approximately ten days of mostly downstream travel in a backcountry setting and constitutes a significant recreational resource. While Otter Lake also constitutes an extremely important entity in the park and is probably best known as being the home of the legendary White Otter Castle. This feature alone attracts countless tourists to the lake, as do its superb scenery, wilderness camping potential and fine lake trout angling opportunities. The park contains areas of topographic and vegetative diversity, high scenic quality, navigable rapids, good sand beaches and several features of historical and prehistoric interest. The character, navigability and scenery of the park tend to be extremely variable. The waterway is characterized by chains of small lakes joined by short quick drops in elevation with stretches of significant grade and fast water. White Otter Lake and Elfrut Lake constitute large lake opportunities, offering a diversity of scenery and recreational experience from river travel. In addition to the principal canoe route of the Turtle River, there is also a variety of adjoining district canoe routes in the park's vicinity. (Fig. 2)

Typical landscapes on the waterway include heavily wooded shorelines, with dense jack pine and stands of mature red and white pine. In addition, there are low-lying marshlands and large areas of wild rice, particularly in the southern reaches of the waterway. While Otter Lake exhibits high recreational potential, with scenic vistas, numerous rock cliffs, bedrock points and large sand beaches. Perhaps the most spectacular natural feature on the waterway is scenic Horse Falls, lying just downstream of Elfrut Lake.

The presence of whitewater opportunities is one of the major attractions of the Turtle River for many backcountry canoeists. There are 22 sets of rapids on the waterway, some of which may be navigable by whitewater paddlers, particularly downstream of White Otter Lake. Some rapids are longer and more complex, however, and there are several mandatory portages including those around falls.

The trip through the waterway park from Ignace to Little Turtle Lake requires a minimum of 27 portages, ranging in length from short portages to carries of over 800 metres. There is, in fact, a total of more than 50 portages within the park boundary, some of which access White Otter Lake at various locations. Quality of portages varies from wet, difficult and



Elfrut Lake

overgrown, to obvious and well-used trails, the latter being most common in the White Otter Lake area.

Within the park boundary lie numerous lakes offering high quality sport fishing opportunities. Due to new roads and access however, angling quality within the area has declined during the last ten years. There are six lakes within the park that have a high quality lake trout fishery (Balmoral, Bending, Dibble, Nora, Pekagoning and White Otter), while Jones and Elfrut Lakes support a walleye and northern pike fishery. There are a few hunting and outpost camps located in the area, used by fly-in sportsmen. Those lakes with road access such as White Otter, Smirch and Dibble have considerable motor boat activity.

The park presents many opportunities for interpretation including the waterway's logging history (dams, old lumber camps, forest cover), native use (pictographs, wild rice) and the famed White Otter Castle. An interpretive program would serve to enhance the experience of park users.

Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity is a measure of the ability of an area to withstand recreational use without undue deterioration. This is an important element in the identification of potential access points and campsites, and is based on a number of biophysical factors such as soil type, slope and vegetative cover.

Because each segment of the river has different resource characteristics, the recreation capability of the Turtle River Waterway is highly vari-



Campground near White Otter Castle



able. The wilderness character of the waterway has been somewhat diminished in the past ten years due to road construction, forest activity, new access and increased recreational use. Existing users of the waterway are primarily anglers and canoe trippers, with anglers currently accounting for the greatest amount of waterway users. Recreational impact tends to be most evident where use is concentrated, such as at campsites, portages and access points.

Campsite potential along the waterway is highly variable. There are some segments where campsites are abundant, whereas in other sections they are very rare. While the quantity of campsites varies considerably, their quality is generally good. However, sites in the more accessible and popular areas are subject to heavy use and show signs of deterioration including soil erosion, compaction, loss of ground cover, tree cutting and garbage accumulation.

Approximately 100 campsites have been identified within the Turtle River Park. The northerly and south-

erly sections of the river have very limited camping potential, while the Pekagoning, Dibble, White Otter, Nora Lake areas of the park have excellent campsites in a variety of settings. Travelling in those stretches of the waterway where campsites are scarce (particularly in the river's southern reaches) demands careful trip planning, in order to avoid the necessity of making camp in these areas.

Fortunately, the sections of the river which are presently attracting the highest levels of use also appear to be those areas which have the highest capability to support recreational use. Such areas include White Otter, Dibble, and Elfrut Lakes. These lakes are large or have a complex shape, which allows activity to be dispersed. Camping opportunities here are plentiful due to an abundance of campsites. Other sections of the waterway such as the stretch from Agimik Lake to Nora Lake and the Turtle River below Elfrut Lake exhibit much lower recreational capability. These stretches have fewer and less diverse features to attract and sustain recreational use.



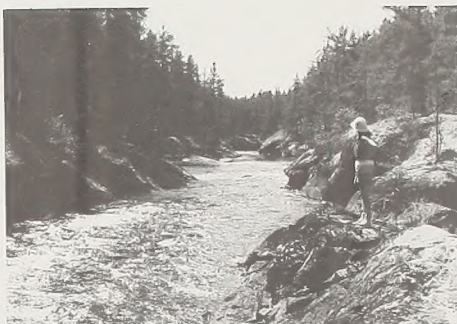
Rapids on Turtle River between Smirch and Jones Lake.

Access and Dispersal

Terminal points of the Turtle River Waterway Park are accessible from both Trans Canada Highways, from Highway 17 to the north and Highway 11 to the south. The middle sector of the river is accessible from the Bending Lake Road bridge, which runs between Atikokan and Ignace. White Otter Lake is also accessible from Clearwater West Lake, and the Ann Bay access point, both of which are also reached from the Bending Lake Road.

Access to the waterway can be gained by means of short trails from logging roads that are in close proximity to numerous sections of the park boundary. Indeed, most major lakes on the waterway are currently within reach of an access road. The potential for contact with other recreationists is greatly increased due to the frequent occurrence of access points along the waterway corridor. As a result, there are few sections of the river which can provide the park visitor with a remote recreational experience.

The waterway offers little opportunity for dispersal of park users, largely due to the corridor nature of the Turtle River. However, White Otter Lake is an important addition to the park in that it can sustain a large number of recreationists, due to its large size and complex shape, with numerous bays and secluded beaches. However, due to the lake's appeal and popularity, it tends to experience a high level of visitation which similarly diminishes opportunities for a remote recreational experience in this sector of the park. White Otter Castle is becoming an increasingly popular destination for winter recreationists, with a large number of snowmobilers visiting the site annually.



Turtle River north of Jones Lake.



Bending Lake Highway crossing of Turtle River Waterway Park

MARKET ANALYSIS

The Turtle River Waterway Park presently caters to a number of user groups including guests of commercial tourist establishments, non-resident and resident campers, fishermen, and canoeists. Greater road access related to logging activity in the area has increased the angling opportunities in the area and a large proportion of the existing use of the waterway is from resident and non-resident anglers. Within a radius of approx. 450 km. (one day's drive) of White Otter Castle, it is estimated that there are 2 1/2 million people, half of these being Americans.

The majority of Ontario resident use of the park originates from Thunder Bay, and from the nearby communities of Ignace, Dryden and Atikokan. Non-resident use originates from the major cities of the five upper midwestern states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Michigan.



The Turtle River Waterway Park represents a significant recreational resource. The park contains areas of exceptional scenic quality, features of historic and pre-historic interest, navigable rapids, sand beaches and high quality angling opportunities. The White Otter Castle represents a major attraction with organized trips occurring in both summer and winter. It is estimated that approx. 3,500 people visit the castle site each year.

PLANNING ISSUES:

This section identifies a number of issues which will be resolved during the preparation of the park management plan. Additional issues may arise during the planning process as a result of public consultation.

The major issues identified to date include:

1. Park Boundary Adjustments

The earth and life science and recreational inventories for the Turtle River Waterway Park recommend a number of boundary adjustments to incorporate locally and regionally significant features within the park.

Most of these additions relate to the inclusion of earth and life science features, of which portions lie outside the park boundary. It is also proposed that the portion of the Turtle River omitted from the park in the vicinity of Bending Lake be included with the park boundary. It is acknowledged that this is an area of high mineral potential. This issue must be addressed in the park planning process.



Terminus of Turtle River Park (in distance)

2. Access and Access Points

Forest access roads and trails in close proximity to the boundary of the Turtle River Waterway Park have created a situation in which few sections of the river can provide a true remote recreational experience. Restriction of access may be required in some areas of the park where access is deemed undesirable. Other locations may require formal designation as access points and may warrant upgrading.

3. Permitted Uses:

(a) Hunting

The issue of whether or not to allow hunting both by fly-in out-post camp clientele and resident day-users must be addressed in the preparation of this management plan. Recent parks policy (1988) indicates that the issue of hunting in waterway parks will be determined on a case by case basis.

(b) Mechanized Travel

There is currently extensive use of motor boats, snowmobiles and aircraft within the park. The public has indicated their concern over potential restrictions on mechanized travel within the park. Of particular concern is the continued use of developed snowmobile trails in the area, and the use of outboard motors for commercial tourism and private recreational purposes.

(c) Commercial Tourism Interests

The commercial tourist industry has a considerable stake in the Turtle River Waterway Park. One of the main concerns is the effect of access controls and restrictions on existing business patterns. Also of concern is the effect of park zoning on permitted uses (i.e. hunting, boat cache, mechanized travel). The potential for additional tourism opportunities will be examined.

(d) Boat Caches within Park

There are significant numbers of commercial and private boat caches in the park, both registered and unregistered. Park users are concerned about the effects of zoning on this continued use.

(e) Commercial Bait Fishing

The new Provincial Parks Policy (1988) states that commercial bait-fishing will not be permitted within provincial parks except in waterway class parks. If, in fact, a phase-out is required, it would only involve water bodies wholly enclosed within the park boundary and not entire bait-fish blocks or licences. This issue requires clarification in the park management plan.



4. White Otter Castle

The future use and management of White Otter Castle is a very important issue. The Castle requires extensive restoration and a management agreement will be required to facilitate this restoration. The park management plan must also deal with other considerations such as access to the castle, appropriate facilities and the role of the Castle in creating economic benefits for the communities of Ignace and Atikokan.





DID YOU KNOW THAT WHITE OTTER CASTLE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A PROVINCIAL HERITAGE SITE?

DID YOU ALSO KNOW THAT THERE ARE EXTENSIVE PLANS TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE THIS HISTORIC LANDMARK?

The restoration and operation of the castle will be the responsibility of a non-profit group of concerned citizens called the "Friends of White Otter Castle". Because the castle site is located within Turtle River Provincial Waterway Park, this project will be facilitated through a management agreement between the Friends of White Otter Castle and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

For further information on the castle project, please contact:

Friends of White Otter Castle
c/o Joyce Foy
P.O. Box 1330,
ATIKOKAN, Ontario
P0T 1C0

For Further Information

REFERENCES

There is a variety of documents which provided background for this park management planning process, which are listed below. These include detailed studies of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Turtle River and White Otter Lake as well as Ministry of Natural Resources planning documents for the area surrounding the park.

Ministry of Natural Resources Planning Documents

- Atikokan District Land Use Plan: Background Information, 1981.
- Ignace District Land Use Plan: Background Information, 1981.
- Fort Frances District Land Use Plan: Background Information, 1981.
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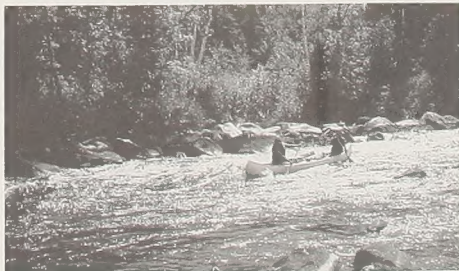
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TURTLE RIVER-WHITE OTTER PROVINCIAL WATERWAY PARK

It is likely that, with public support through the public consultation process, the name "White Otter" will be added to the park name. This will

reflect the significance of the inclusion of White Otter Lake and the Castle within the park boundary.



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